TAXIDERMY AND SCULPTURE

THE WORK OF

CARL E. AKELEY

IN

FIELD MUSEUM

OF

NATURAL HISTORY

CHICAGO

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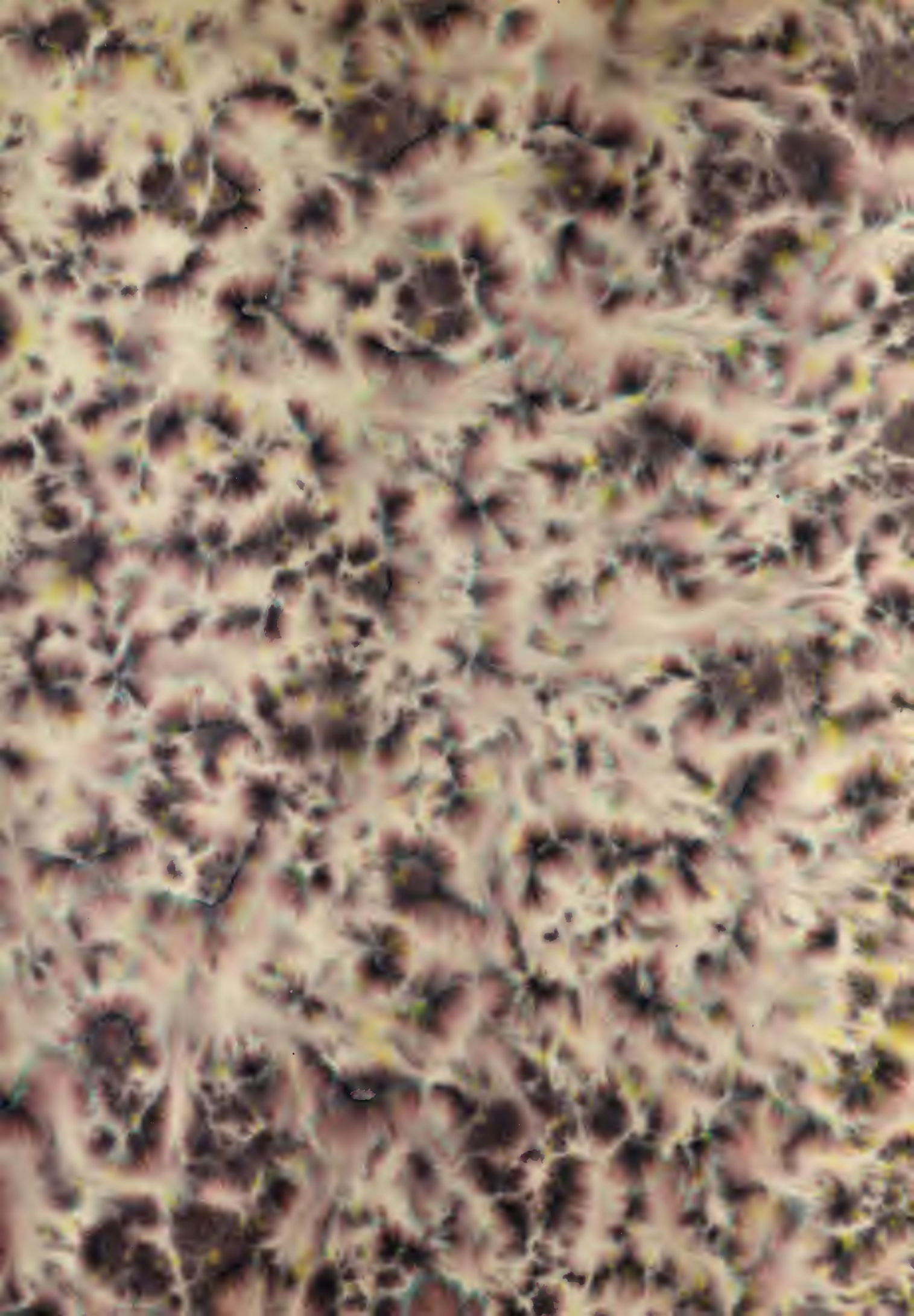

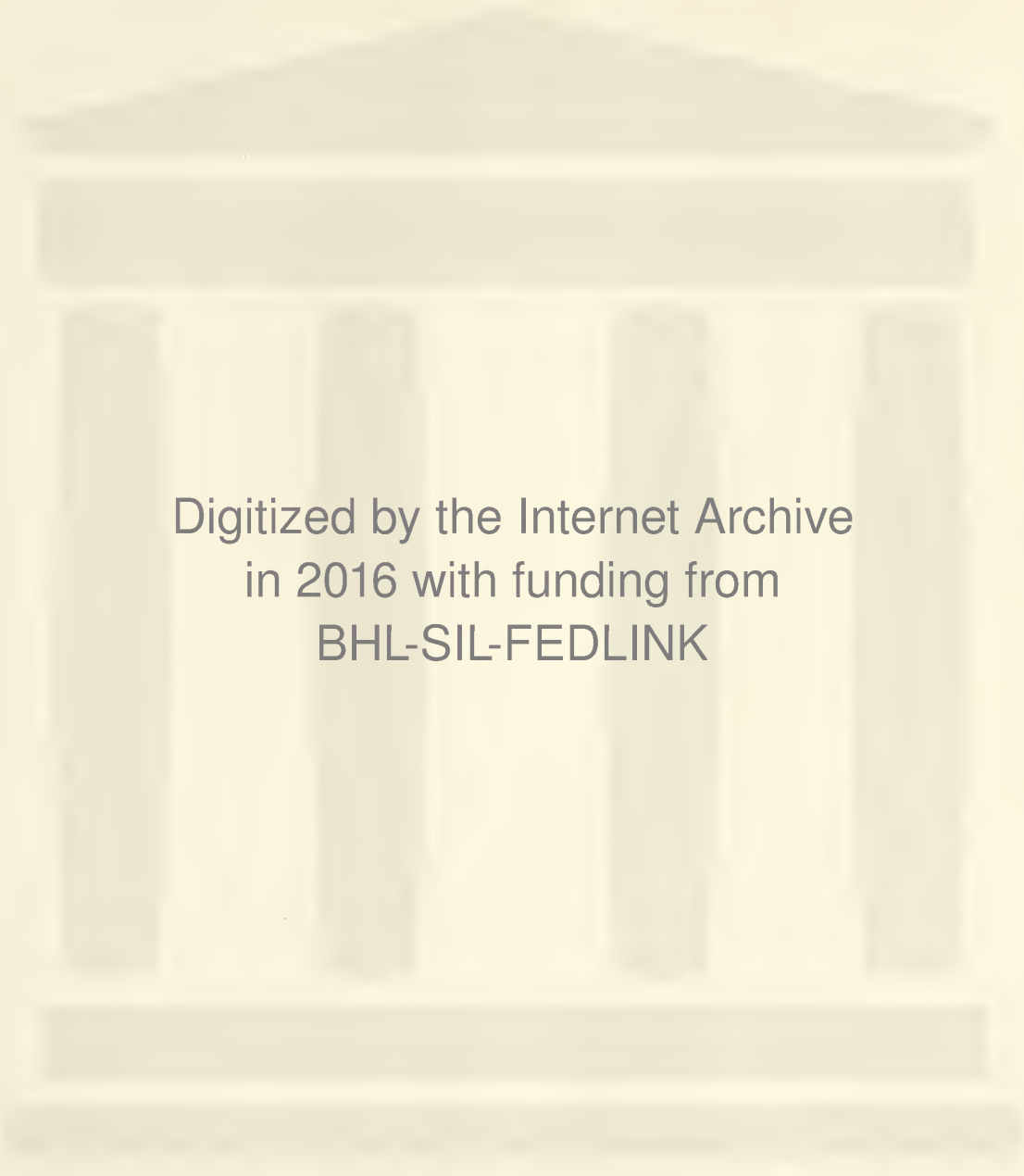

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THE WORK
OF
CARL E. AKELEY
IN
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

In 1896, shortly after Field Museum opened its doors, Carl E. Akeley, then practically unknown, was employed as its chief taxidermist. A fortunate combination was thus effected between a young institution with large needs and a young man of genius and power full of enthusiasm to carry them out. His talent was quickly recognized and with the necessary freedom from petty supervision and sufficient financial support he began to produce results which attracted world-wide attention. For fourteen years, thereafter, from 1896 to 1909, Akeley was practically undisturbed and concentrated on the production of museum pieces for Field Museum. Although his later life was one of great activity and with far reaching results, it was more varied and not so continuously devoted to concrete production, so the major part of his own handiwork, especially in taxidermy, is found in the output of these fourteen years.

The quality of Akeley's work rests not only upon his talent as an artist and modeler, but upon a rare combination of ability as a naturalist, an inventor, sculptor, and practical workman. By utilizing the methods of the sculptor, in connection with ingenious devices of his own invention, he revolutionized taxidermy and raised it to the level of a high art. First of all, he knew and loved his animals and, to a large extent, his existing work is based upon specimens collected in the field by himself. This enabled him to attain a high degree of fidelity to nature and to bring his genius to bear upon those subtleties of feeling and expression which make his works vibrate with life and individuality. By his methods, any well trained workman could produce a result that was coldly correct, but Akeley went far beyond this. While his efforts in the exercise of his own talented hand continued until the last, this, to him, was somewhat secondary and by way of demonstration of the possibilities in his beloved field of work. His deepest, dearest hope was to give a dignity and fineness to taxidermy which should lead men of great genius to be attracted to it.

The accompanying collection of photogravures is a nearly complete representation of Akeley's work as it now exists in Field Museum. The group of African Buffalo was done under special contract and acquired by the Museum in 1914. The bronze lion spearing groups, of which there are two sets, one in the American Museum of New York and one in Field Museum, were finished in 1926 and presented to the Museum by Mr. Richard T. Crane, Jr. The smaller bronzes, "The Wounded Comrade," "The Charging Herd," "Stung," and others, also were done in Akeley's later years and mainly under his own auspices. These have been presented to Field Museum by its President, Mr. Stanley Field, and serve to render its collection of his work more comprehensive. A few other copies of these well known subjects exist in private hands or in other museums. With these exceptions, the work here shown photographically belongs to the period 1894 to 1909. The portrait of Mr. Akeley was taken in Field Museum, January 26, 1926, shortly before he departed on his last trip to Africa.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD, Curator of Zoology

November, 1927

LIST OF SUBJECTS

NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

Virginia Deer. *Odocoileus virginianus borealis* Miller. Eastern United States.
Four groups of four animals each. Spring, summer, autumn, winter.

Stone's Mountain Sheep. *Ovis dalli stonei* Allen. Northern British Columbia.
Group of six animals.

Muskox. *Ovibos moschatus niphoecus* Elliot. Hudson Bay Region.
Group of seven animals.

Polar Bear. *Thalarctos maritimus* Phipps. Arctic Region.
Group of four animals.

AFRICAN MAMMALS

African Elephant. *Loxodonta africana peeli* Lydekker. Kenya Colony, Africa.
Group of two animals.

Somali Wild Ass. *Equus asinus somaliensis* Noack. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of four animals.

Grevy's Zebra. *Equus grevyi* Oustalet. Somaliland and Abyssinia, Africa.
Two animals, male and female.

Mountain Zebra. *Equus zebra* Linnaeus. South Africa.
Single animal.

Selous Zebra. *Equus quagga selousi* Pocock. Mashonaland, Africa.
Single animal.

Transvaal Zebra. *Equus quagga transvaalensis* Ewart. South Africa.
Group of six animals.

Greater Koodoo. *Strepsiceros strepsiceros* Pallas. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of four animals.

Lesser Koodoo. *Strepsiceros imberbis* Blyth. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of six animals.

Sable Antelope. *Egocerus niger* Harris. Mashonaland, Africa.
Two animals, male and female.

Roan Antelope. *Egocerus equinus* Geoffroy. Mashonaland, Africa.
Single animal.

Beisa Antelope. *Oryx beisa* Rüppell. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of five animals.

Soemmerring's Gazelle. *Gazella soemmerringi berberana* Matschie. British Somaliland, Africa.
Single animal.

Gerenuk. *Lithocranius walleri* Brooke. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of six animals.

Clarke's Gazelle. *Ammodorcas clarkei* Thomas. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of six animals.

Waterbuck. *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* Ogilby. Mashonaland, Africa.
Single animal.

White-bearded Gnu. *Connochaetes albojubatus* Thomas. Kilimanjaro District, Africa.
Single animal.

Lichtenstein's Hartebeest. *Alcelaphus lichtensteini* Peters. Mashonaland, Africa.
Single animal.

Swayne's Hartebeest. *Alcelaphus tora swaynei* Sclater. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of seven animals.

Coke's Hartebeest. *Alcelaphus cokei* Günther. Kenya Colony, Africa.
Single animal.

Sassaby. *Damaliscus lunatus* Burchell. South Africa.
Single animal.

Bontebok. *Damaliscus pygargus* Pallas. South Africa.
Two animals, male and female.

Blesbok. *Damaliscus albifrons* Burchell. Orange Free State, Africa.
Single animal.

African Buffalo. *Syncerus caffer radcliffei* Thomas. Kenya Colony, Africa.
Group of five animals.

Warthog. *Phacochoerus aethiopicus delamerei* Lönnberg. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of six animals.

Cheetah. *Acinonyx jubatus raineyi* Heller. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of seven animals.

Spotted Hyena. *Crocuta crocuta leontiewi* Satunin. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of three animals.

Striped Hyaena. *Hyaena hyaena dubia* Schinz. British Somaliland, Africa.
Group of four animals.

EAST INDIAN MAMMALS

Proboscis Monkey. *Nasalis larvatus* Wurmb. Borneo, East Indies.
Group of seven animals.

BRONZE STATUARY

Lion Spearing in Africa. Three groups in life size.

Group I. The charge. Lion and lioness charging hunters.

Group II. The attack. Nandi spearmen meeting charge of lions.

Group III. The requiem. Spearmen chanting over body of dead lion.

The Wounded Comrade. African Elephants supporting a wounded tusker in retreat from danger.

The Charging Herd. A massed herd of elephants advancing in full charge.

Stung. Small bull elephant harried by a serpent.

Going. Small elephant in rapid gait.

Lion and Buffalo. African lion attacking buffalo. A tragedy of the veldt.

The Old Man of Mikeno. Heroic bust of old male mountain gorilla from the gorilla sanctuary in Belgian Congo.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

CARL E. AKELEY
1864-1926

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

VIRGINIA DEER
SPRING GROUP
EASTERN UNITED STATES

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

VIRGINIA DEER
SUMMER GROUP
EASTERN UNITED STATES

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

VIRGINIA DEER
AUTUMN GROUP
EASTERN UNITED STATES

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

VIRGINIA DEER
WINTER GROUP
EASTERN UNITED STATES

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

STONE'S MOUNTAIN SHEEP

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

MUSKOX

HUDSON BAY REGION

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

POLAR BEAR

ARCTIC REGION

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

KENYA COLONY, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SOMALI WILD ASS

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

GREVY'S ZEBRA
MALE
LAKE RUDOLPH, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

GREVY'S ZEBRA
FEMALE
SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SELOUS ZEBRA

MASHONALAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

TRANSVAAL ZEBRA

SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

GREATER KOODOO

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LESSER KOODOO

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SABLE ANTELOPE
MALE
MASHONALAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SABLE ANTELOPE
FEMALE
MASHONALAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

ROAN ANTELOPE

SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

BEISA ANTELOPE

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SOEMMERRING'S GAZELLE

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

WALLER'S GAZELLE OR GERENUK

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

CLARK'S GAZELLE OR DIBATAG

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

WATERBUCK

MASHONALAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

WHITE-BEARDED GNU

KILIMANJARO DISTRICT, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LICHTENSTEIN'S HARTEBEEST

MASHONALAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SWAYNE'S HARTEBEEST

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

COKE'S HARTEBEEST

KENYA COLONY, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SASSABY

SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

BONTEBOK
MALE
SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

BONTEBOK
FEMALE
SOUTH AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

BLESBOK

ORANGE FREE STATE, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

AFRICAN BUFFALO

KENYA COLONY, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

WARTHOG

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

CHEETAH OR HUNTING LEOPARD

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

SPOTTED HYAENA

SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

STRIPED HYAENA

BRITISH SOMALILAND, AFRICA

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

PROBOSCIS MONKEY

BORNEO, EAST INDIES

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LION SPEARING IN AFRICA

BRONZE GROUP NO. 1

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LION SPEARING IN AFRICA

BRONZE GROUP NO. II

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LION SPEARING IN AFRICA

BRONZE GROUP NO. III

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WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

THE WOUNDED COMRADE

BRONZE GROUP OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

THE CHARGING HERD

BRONZE GROUP OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

STUNG

BRONZE FIGURE OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

GOING

BRONZE FIGURE OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

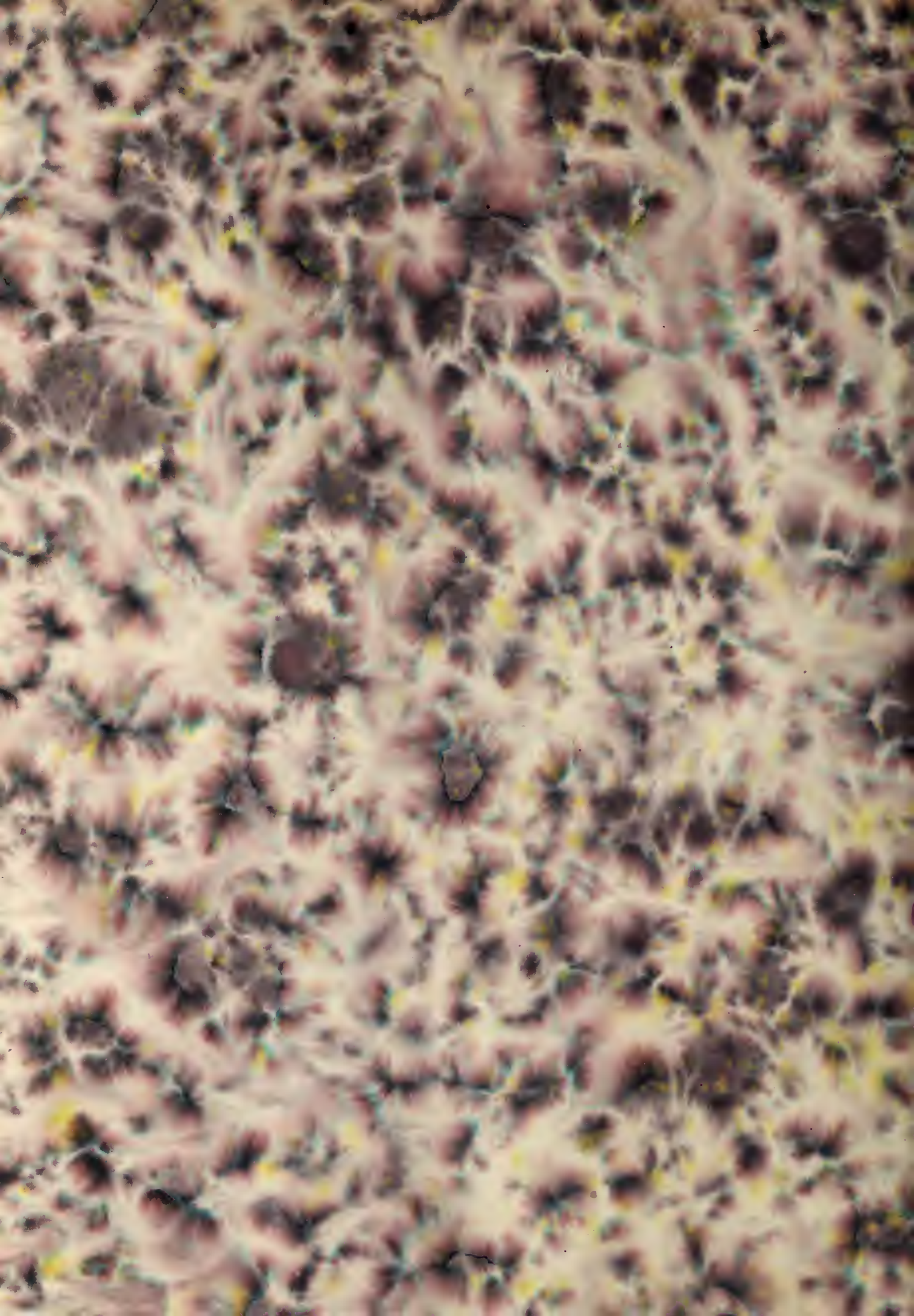
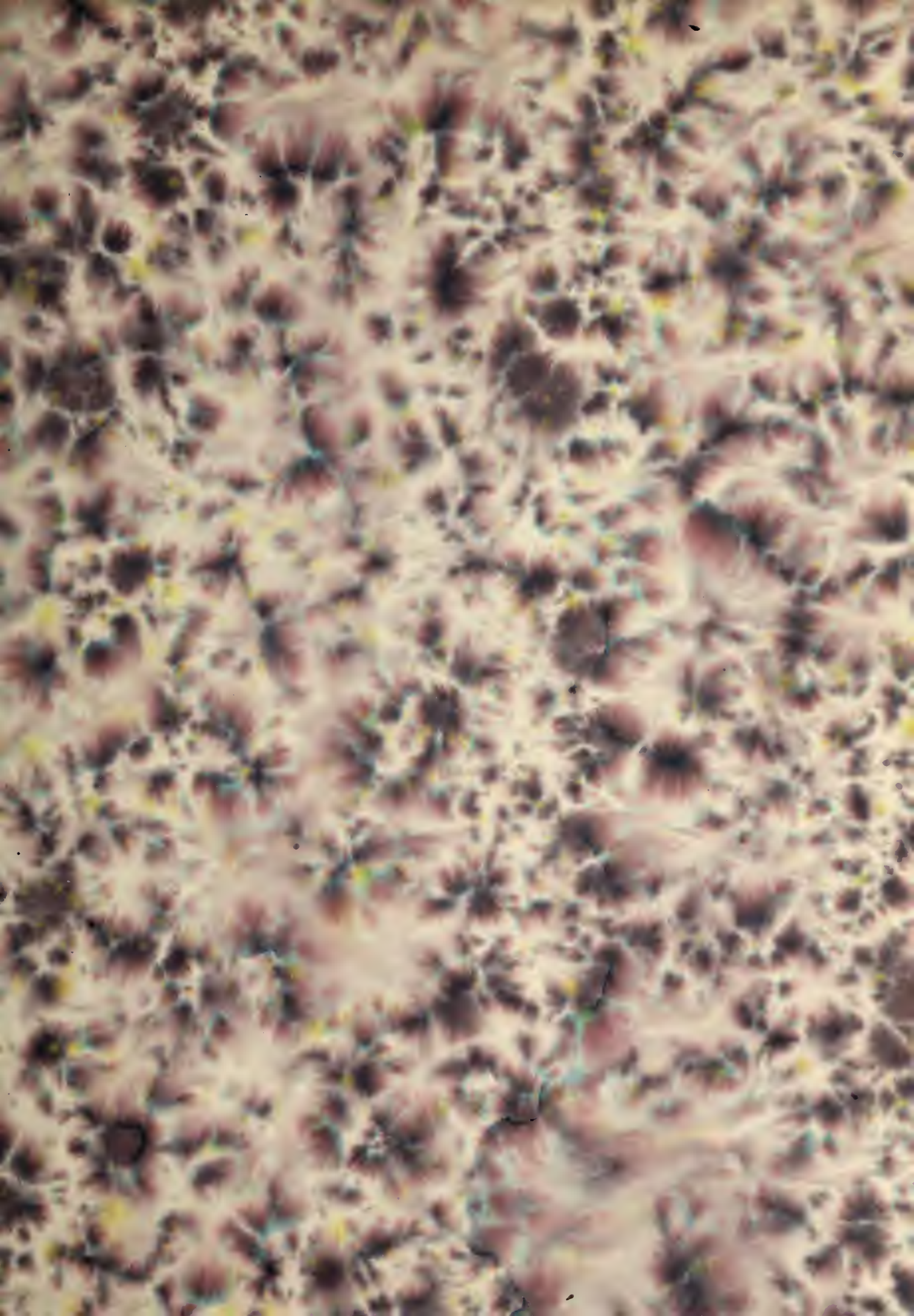
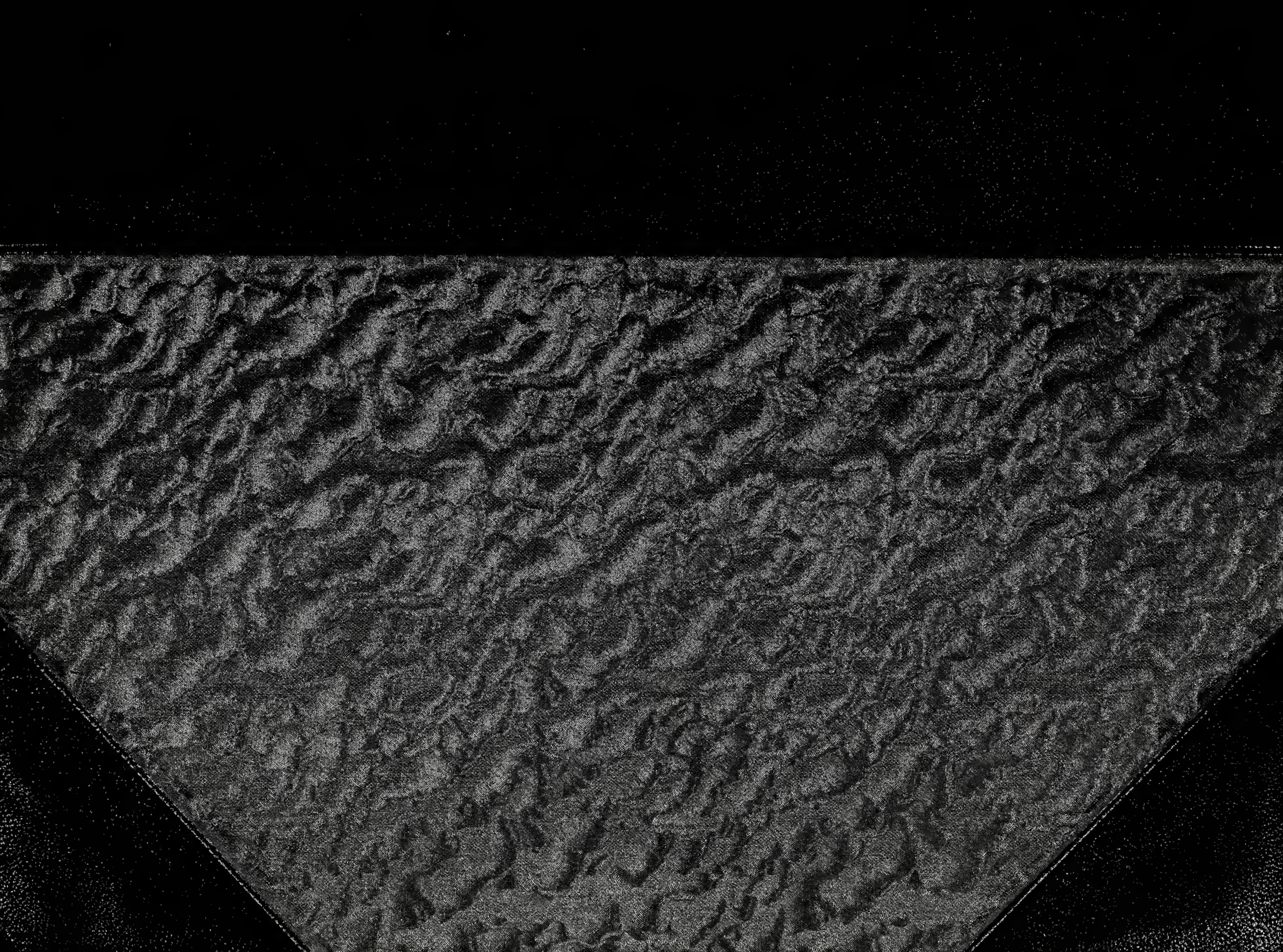
WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

LION AND BUFFALO

BRONZE GROUP

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

WORK OF CARL E. AKELEY

THE OLD MAN OF MIKENO

BRONZE BUST OF MOUNTAIN GORILLA